

Solid Waste Advisory Committee
5 May 09
MINUTES

Present: Councilor Keith Nyhan, Chair, Greg Banks, Terry Clarkson, Arthur Aznive, Councilors Fred Keach, Councilor Dick Lemieux, Councilor Liz Blanchard and Councilor William Stetson.

Staff: Chip Chesley, Pat Winn, Karon Devoid

Public: Elaine Kellerman

Absent: Melanie Doiron, Paula Mattis, Jeff Meyers, Mike Russell, Robert Werner

General

The meeting convened at 4:25 PM by Councilor Nyhan. Councilor Nyhan asked that everyone introduce themselves. Councilor Nyhan noted that Brian Phelps wouldn't be able to attend this meeting.

Review & Approve Minutes

The minutes of April 21, 2009, were approved with the correction noted.

Pay As You Throw Implementation Update

Chip noted that the bag contract has been awarded. The bags are scheduled to be in local retail outlets two weeks prior to implementation on July 6. Pat Winn is currently working with about twenty local retail outlets. Some smaller stores have raised a few issues; Pat is working with them. Liz Blanchard wanted to know who would be carrying the bags in Penacook. Pat informed her that he is in contact with both Fox Hardware and Sam's. Thirty Pines is not, as of yet. Still working with them. Pat indicated 43 stores have been contacted regarding the handling the City bags; so far, 15 have been confirmed.

Councilor Lemieux wants to know what the City pays for a bag, and would like to have that answer at the next meeting.

The large bag, (30 gallon) will hold approximately twenty pounds. The smaller bag (15 gallon) will hold approximately ten pounds. Councilor Lemieux was concerned if it was overfilled, would it rip? It was noted that the large 30 gallon bag would hold about 20 pounds of refuse; the smaller 15 gallon bag would hold 15 pounds. Chip indicated the bags all have a drawstring on top.

Pat Winn is continuing to work with multi-family apartments and condominium properties. At this point, it appears there may be one property the City service. Though March 20th was the deadline, Pat is continuing to pursue this matter. Pat noted that most multi family units budget on a yearly basis, not fiscal year, and will absorb the cost until January 2010. He noted a number of properties are reducing the number of dumpsters

Elaine wanted to know if the City had selected its solid waste and recycling contractors. Chip noted that the successful contractor is to be notified very soon.

Education

The first of two educational staffers will go into the City's water bill on April 30th. It will give instructions on Pay As You Throw and refer residents to the city's website. Councilor Nyhan requested that the City's web page have a link to PAYT. Chip advised he would follow up on the request.

Chip reminded committee members that a postcard will also go out to all residents, which will help target those without city water. Councilor Lemieux wanted to know what the cost would involve sending out postcards. Wouldn't it be to just those who don't have city water? Chip felt the more information residents received on it, the better.

The committee discussed the need to expand the educational effort to the City's media; local radio stations, Concord Monitor, and CCTV. Chip advised that the Sierra Club will be conducting four neighborhood meetings on May 16 at Beaver Meadow Golf Course, West Street Ward House, East Concord Community Center, and the Heights Community Center. Councilor Nyhan would like councilors to attend. The committee believes early June would be an appropriate time to air programs on CCTV and local radio stations. Councilor Nyhan suggested staff to contact Doris Ballard regarding a program on Coffee Chat on WKXL.

Elaine Kellerman informed the committee that the INSIDER will be doing an article on June 2 or 9. Interviews to be done by city staff and SWAC members. She would also like to interview City Manager Tom Aspell and Mayor Boulay. Elaine will have Katie Helm (who will be writing the article) contact Chip regarding this.

Councilor Nyhan would like to know if there's any way a table could be set up at the Kiwanis Trade Fair. He asked Chip to check with Jeff Bardwell regarding the

possibility. Councilor Nyhan said he would staff it part of the time. At least to get a table and information out there for people to see.

Greg Banks asked if letter will go out to businesses using the City's cart system. Chip noted that the letter will be mailed prior to June

Downtown Solid Waste District Discussion

Moving onto the next agenda item, Councilor Nyhan opened the discussion on the Downtown Solid Waste Removal District.

Should there be a DSWD? Does it make sense to continue the service?

Both Terry Clarkson and Arthur Asnive noted that the district provides a needed service to the Downtown.

Councilor Nyhan would like Chip to bring back to the next meeting the hows & whys of the original contract for DSWD...how it was established?

The service was established to provide uniform solid waste collection and disposal services for the Downtown area. Instead of having a number of vendors serving a number of individual properties and/or tenants, a single vendor provides service to dumpsters six days per week. The dumpsters are available to all properties within the district. There are about 167 properties within the district. Committee members stated the service keeps a much cleaner downtown. Though it was noted that dumpsters can take valuable parking spaces, trash would blow all over the city without dumpsters. In order to service the district prior to the start of business, committee members noted that the trucks need to begin 6:00 AM. Majority of the committee thinks dumpsters are a good idea. The District does not provide any revenue to the City.

What does the committee feel should be done? Was it decided by square footage? Should the boundaries be redefined? Can we go back to the original DSWD? We make residents pay by use, why not businesses? Charge by property value? Why not divide total among all? How would you bill by use? Will there be more issues if we extend/expand the district? Should the committee set up a process change/guidelines to opt in or opt out, and then approve by Council? What other businesses should be included? Are we allowing other businesses to opt out like the Center Point Church? Where do you stop at exclusions?

Some committee members feels the boundary lines should be reviewed to provide uniformity.

Do we bill the State? Paul Cavanaugh, City Solicitor, is preparing an opinion.

Terry Clarkson inquired is there a specific problem with the District. Councilor Lemieux indicated he thought the district operated satisfactorily.

Compost

What can we do to compost? Should we address the compost issue? Offer barrels? The committee believes there is a need to provide education on this fraction of the solid waste stream. Given the City's limited resources, the committee agreed it was best to refer people to the Northeast Resource Recovery Association and to the County Extension Service.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 19th, COMF conference room, 4:15 PM